

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 08428

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: COVERAGE OF FALL 1977
AND SPRING 1978 TASK FORCE REPORTS

REF: (A) STATE 208996 DTG 312343Z AUG 77, (B) STATE
189527 DTG 102238Z AUG 77.

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1. REF A INSTRUCTED US, UNLESS WE HAD CONTRARY VIEWS, TO
ASK PANSAL TO INSCRIBE ON THE 20 SEPTEMBER EWG AGENDA, ITEMS
ON (A) TIMING OF DESIGNATION OF ACTION AREAS PER TASK FORCE
AND (B) FORMAT OF TASK FORCES' SPRING REPORTS. WE HAD NO
CONTRARY VIEWS ON (A) AND (B), BUT DISCUSSED THEM ON 2 SEP-
TEMBER WITH ASYG MUMFORD RATHER THAN PANSAL, SINCE MUMFORD
WILL CHAIR THE 20 SEPTEMBER EWG IN PANSAL'S ABSENCE.
EARLIER IN THE WEEK WE HAD CALLED ON PANSAL TO DISCUSS,
INTER ALIA, THE CONTENT OF THE 20 SEPTEMBER ORAL REPORTS
(REF B), AND PANSAL HAD ASKED US TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH
MUMFORD SINCE MUMFORD WOULD CHAIR THE MEETING.

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2. MUMFORD AGREED THAT THE 20 SEPTEMBER EWG WAS NOT TOO
EARLY TO CONSIDER THE FORMAT OF THE SPRING REPORTS. HE
SAID THAT SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF HAD SOME TIME
BEFORE THE MEETING, HE WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO PREPARE A
PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT TO FACILITATE DISCUSSION. ON THE
QUESTION OF DESIGNATING ACTION AREAS PER TASK FORCE,
MUMFORD SAID HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL

TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE APPEARED TO COVER THE ACTION AREAS IN THEIR "OBJECTIVES" PARAGRAPHS. HE ADDED THAT HE WANTED TO THINK ABOUT THE SUBJECT FURTHER AND WOULD LET US KNOW. AGAIN HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS TIME TO PREPARE A DISCUSSION PAPER IF HE THOUGHT DISCUSSION AT THE 20 SEPTEMBER EWG COULD BE FRUITFUL. WE LEFT WITH MUMFORD A COPY OF OUR TALKING POINTS DRAWN FROM REF A.

3. WE DO HAVE SOME VIEWS OF THE LARGER ISSUES RAISED IN PARAGRAPHS 2-4 OF REF A THAT, WHILE NOT CONTRARY TO WASHINGTON'S VIEWS, SUPPLEMENT THEM. FOR EXAMPLE, WE SEE IN REF A, A TENDENCY TO CAST THE PRINCIPAL OUTCOME OF THE PROGRAM IN TERMS OF COSTS, EXPENDITURES, HARDWARE, FORCE LEVELS, FORCE POSITIONING, ETC. IT SEEMS TO US THAT AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT ELEMENT TO FOCUS ON IS IMPROVING NATO'S MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES, I.E. BEING ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE NEXT SPRING THAT NATO HAS AGREED ON GENERAL PROCEDURES (SOME OF WHICH MAY INITIALLY REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY) FOR ENSURING MORE STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY AND RATIONALIZATION. AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS ARE A NECESSARY FOUNDATION FOR FOLLOW-ON ACTION ON SPECIFICS.

4. WE BELIEVE THIS APPROACH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S AND SECDEF'S POSITIONS EXPRESSED IN MAY, TO WIT: WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE ALLIANCE HAS AN ADEQUATE MEANS FOR SETTING OVERALL GOALS IN DEFENSE AND MEASURING

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NATIONAL PERFORMANCE AGAINST THESE GOALS. WE WILL FORWARD OUR VIEWS WHEN THEY ARE DEVELOPED FURTHER.

5. IN THE MEANTIME, WE BELIEVE THE 20 SEPTEMBER EWG AGENDA IS FULL ENOUGH, AND THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO GO FURTHER THAN THE ISSUES IN PARAGRAPH 8, REF A, EXCEPT TO LEAVE OPEN THE DOOR FOR SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS OF THE TOPE OF ISSUES NOTED ABOVE. GLITMAN

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